



Aphidoletes aphidimyza

Aphidoletes aphidimyza, also known as the Aphid midge, is a native fly in the Cecidomyiidae family. The adult resembles a small gnat (2-3mm) and has long legs.

Adults are active at dusk. Their eggs are oval, bright orange in color and measure less than 0.3mm.

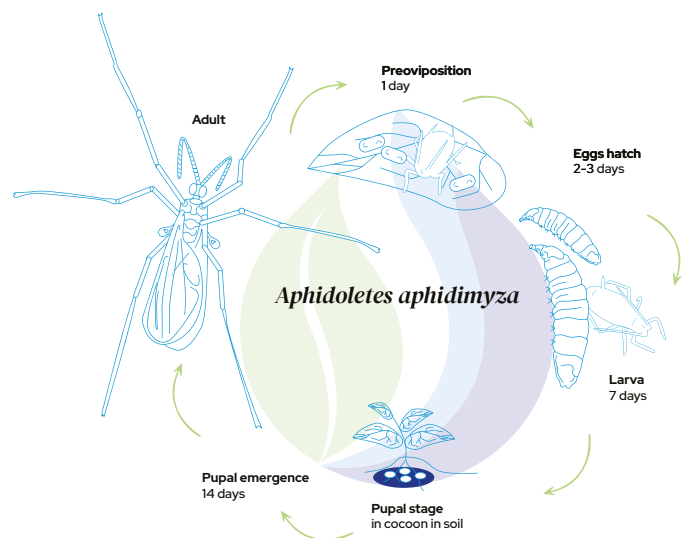
The larva resembles a small maggot (2-3mm). It is bright orange to red, depending on its diet. The larva has powerful mouthparts that allow it to grab its prey.

It injects a paralyzing toxin into its prey and then sucks out the body contents.

In its natural state, it can feed on more than 60 species of aphids.

Life cycle

- A life cycle lasts approximately 24 days.
- Optimum conditions: temperatures of 21-25°C and relative humidity of 70%.
- Females lay 150-200 eggs during their lifetime (1-2 weeks).
- Eggs hatch after 2 - 3 days.
- The larval stage lasts between 7 - 10 days.
- Larvae can consume 3 - 50 aphids per day.
- Pupation occurs on the ground (in soil, sand, organic matter, etc.), and adults emerge after 2 - 3 weeks.
- *Aphidoletes aphidimyza* requires a minimum of 16 hours of light!



Introduction rate

Introduction	Quantity	Area	Frequency	Duration
Preventive	0.25 - 0.50	Per m ²	Weekly	3 introductions
Curative	1	Per m ²	Weekly	Until establishment
Hot Spot	100 - 1000	Per m ²	Weekly	Until establishment







Application

The Aphid midge is an important biological control agent in orchards, greenhouse crops, and nurseries. It should be introduced in the spring before the first signs of an aphid infestation; as soon as the aphids are detected, make additional releases in the infested areas to establish the predator.

Tip: Add extra lighting in autumn and winter in your greenhouses. A 60-watt light bulb can prevent more than half of the larvae within a 20-meter radius from falling into diapause.

Instructions

-  *Aphidoletes aphidimyza* arrive at the pupa stage. The adults will emerge after a few days (maximum 2 weeks).
-  Keep the container at (22-25°C) and in the shade to activate emergence. The substrate in the container must remain moist.
-  Release the adults at dusk. Open the container in a non-infested area to allow adults to cover the entire area to be treated.
-  Repeat introductions weekly for 3 weeks. **IMPORTANT** Stop ventilating the greenhouse for 6 hours after releasing the *Aphidoletes*.

